

Preliminary Amendment
Atty. Ref. WAST2 (026618.000002)
Atty. Reg. No. 39,949
Customer No. 6980
February 27, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

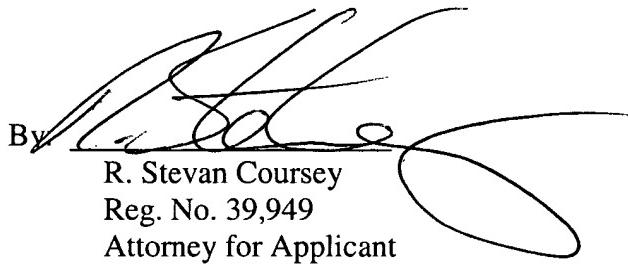
The present Preliminary Amendment is filed for the present application to amend the specification to insert a cross-reference to a related Canadian patent application of inventor Donald E. Howes on which priority is claimed. The Canadian patent application is entitled "Lockable Container and Locking Mechanism for Same" and was filed on February 13, 2004 with the Canadian Patent Office. No serial number has been assigned yet to the Canadian patent application.

Applicant believes that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and allowance of the present patent application is hereby courteously requested.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, in the event that any fee(s) are deemed to be due, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge such fee(s) to Deposit Account No. 20-1507.

Respectfully submitted,

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